

Family & Community Engagement Committee

Date: Tuesday, Oct. 8th, 2024

Committee Co-chairs: Mariah White and Drew Althoff

Committee Members: Megan Baker-Hunger, Sandy Borkowski, Chris Dubis, Cindy Smith, Tina Smith (Bluffview Parent), Jeff Van Fossen (Bluffview Parent)

Vision Statement

To foster strong and sustained connections with families and community partners to best serve BMS students.

Mission

Bluffview Montessori School empowers self-directed learning through a materials-based Montessori curriculum that encourages independence and natural curiosity. Bluffview cultivates learners' deep respect for self, community, and a peaceful environment, while nourishing the intrinsic desire for academic, civic, and personal fulfillment.

Goal Focuses

- Community outreach and public relations
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Family/Parent/Guardian events at BMS
- Increasing attendance at student conference nights
- Staff and student wellness
- Wellness policy review and compliance

ATTENDING: Megan, Sandy, Chris, Cindy, Tina, Mariah, Drew and Sherry
MINUTES BY: Drew

** Action Items and Important Topics are **HIGHLIGHTED** for quick reference

Topic	Notes
WELCOME BACK and Circle Check-in	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• If you could get free food for a month from any restaurant of your choosing, what place are you going with?
DECLARATION OF INTENT	Tina's role in the committee and as an independent consultant
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tina declared her intent to officially join the Committee while also declaring her intent as an independent contractor hired by the school.• Tina was brought in as an independent consultant prior to joining the committee
WELLNESS PROGRAM RECAP	Discuss last Saturday's event and focus on what's next
Committee agreed it was a great launch event on 10/5 at Kinstone	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We had 3 parents, 3 committee members and 3 other teaching staff members present	

Committee discussed the 28-day micro-challenge and agreed to the following:

- Connect the project to Change Singsby Amanda Gorman – “How does your change sing?”
- Students will have an opportunity to participate with an art project – music notes activity
- Families will have an opportunity to participate as well – activity packets go home to share with parents to fill out and here about the project here at school
- Wall space used at the front entry – doorway area going into the gym – display what people are working on for all to see
- DONATIONS could be requested to post the completed music notes on the board (*e.g. minimum donation of \$1 with proceeds benefiting future programming*)

Committee discussed the next session coming Saturday, November 2nd

- The topic will be on Sleep as it relates to Stress Management and will be held here at BMS
- Invite will go out school-wide soon

ACTION: Drew will connect with Sandy on music note activity details

ACTION: Tina will send language about the 28-day micro-challenge program along to be sent home in packets

ACTION: Tina will send along language for the invite to the November session

FUNDRAISING

Options for the group to raise money for wellness and cover the cost of programming. Also, promoting program sustainability.

Committee agreed to have a structured and strong fundraising plan in place by January 2025

- The primary goal of fundraising is to sustain wellness programming for the future at BMS

Committee agreed to move forward with contacting Bluff Country Co-op to join their “Beans For Bags” program to start as soon as possible

Committee agreed to create an in-house donation jar to be out at FCEC events and other school functions

ACTION: Drew will contact Cea Louis at Bluff Country re: Beans For Bags

ACTION: Cindy has a jar we can use!

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. Parent Education Nights
 - a. Technology focused
2. Happy Harvest
3. Breads and Spreads
4. ASAP Coalition Chat
5. Local Wellness Policy cohort

Committee agreed we will host another Parent Education Night this school year on the topic of Technology

- Details TBD

Breads and Spreads / Happy Harvest are both set and good to go

- More info to come regarding defined roles in volunteering that evening

Committee agreed to review participation in the Winona County ASAP Coalition at the next meeting

- Drew is joining the first meeting Oct. 24th from 4:00-5:30

Committee agreed to review participation in the MDE sponsored Local Wellness Policy Cohort at the next meeting

- Drew is joining the first meeting via webinar Oct. 11th from 9:00-10:00

NO ACTION NEEDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**ONGOING: Quick
check-ins, continued
discussion**

1. School Mural with Sarah J.
2. Family Engagement at BMS around Restorative Practices
3. Wellness Policy Cohort
4. Winona County ASAP Coalition
5. Rewriting the code of conduct

This list was trimmed down to only include active discussion points for the committee

- Other event ideas, project ideas and fundraising ideas can be found on the follow Google Doc:

[FCEC Event/Project/Fundraising Ideas](#)

Also located in the shared Drive folder